

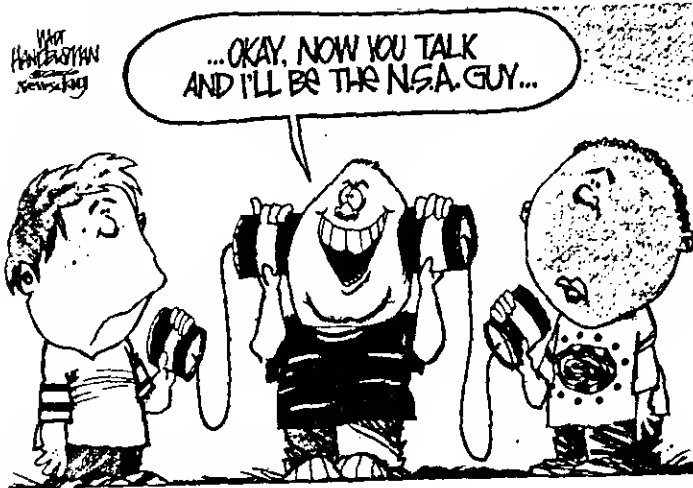
GRAUSTARK

The first 'zine for the postal play of Diplomacy, a game of negotiation and conflict designed by Allan B. Calhamer and published by Hasbro

#777

29 July 2006

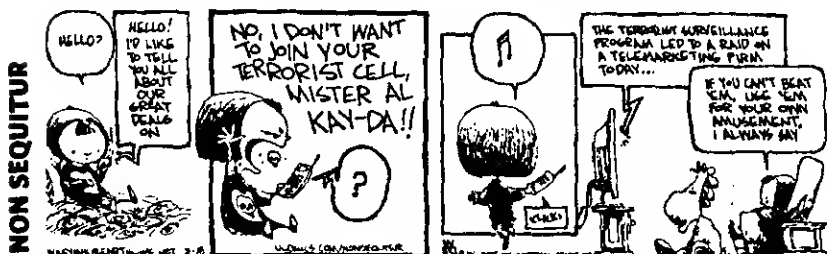
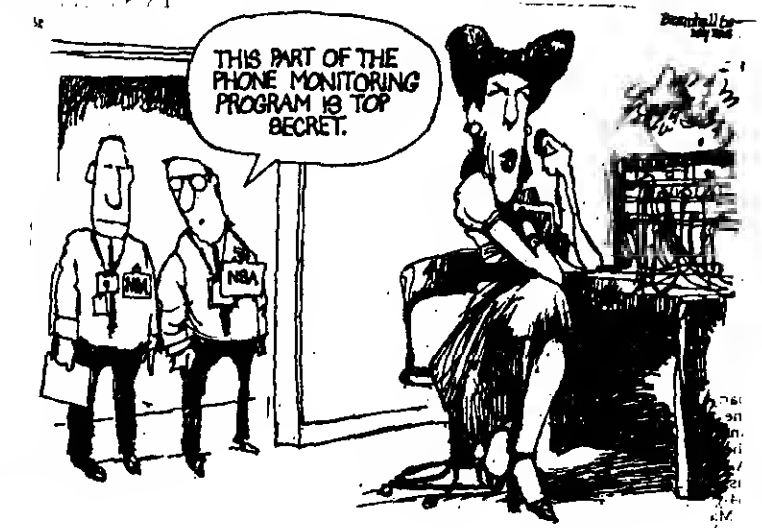
2002D, "Winter 1911-Spring 1912"; 2004C, "Fall 1907"; 2006A, "Winter 1901"



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY



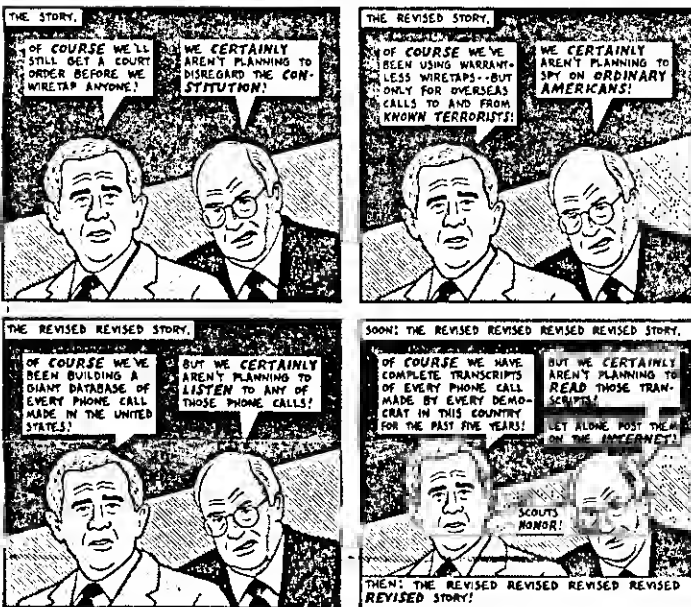
WHY DOMESTIC SURVEILLANCE IS POPULAR



"Shhh! - dis is spy stuff!" - C. Marx



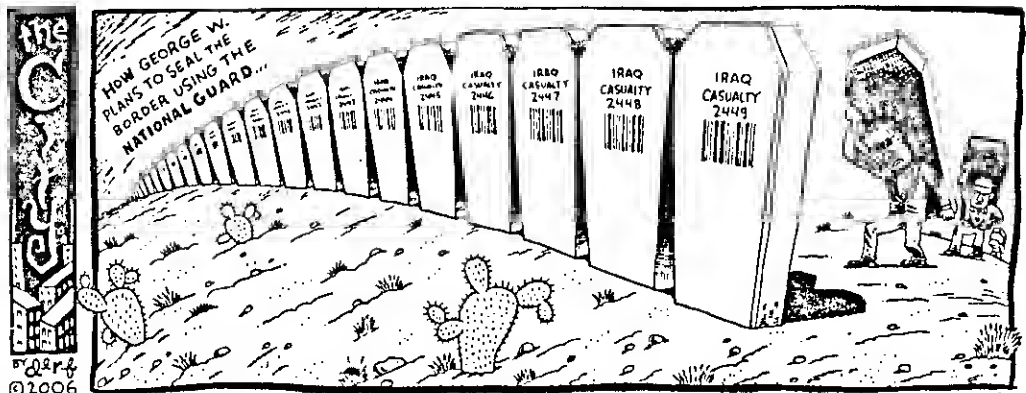
THIS MODERN WORLD By Tom Tomorrow



Walt Handelsman's view



THE CITY By Derf



AMERICAN VOICES

Rumsfeld Under Attack

Donald Rumsfeld is under pressure to resign for his handling of the Iraq war. What do you think?



Brian Johnson
Umpire



Mitch Gansur
Systems Analyst



Danielle Benet
Day Care Provider



Jacob Oakley
Teaching Assistant



Kathleen Van Vleet
Lifeguard



Wyles Stamer
Promotions

"You don't go to war with the secretary of defense you want, you go to war with the secretary of defense you have."

"Strange thing is, internal records say he was fired three years ago."

"As a day-care provider, I sympathize with Rumsfeld. Two thousand kids die on your watch and suddenly you're not qualified to do your job?"

"This is madness! America cannot afford to wage a war without one of the only men remaining who thinks we should be at war!"

"We're in trouble if his resignation requires any kind of planning."

"The Bush administration needs to take firm action to address the growing concerns about the war. I suggest public executions of all dissenters."



TSAR ABDICATES

Following "Fall 1911" moves, Germany built A Mun. All players were informed.

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): A Mos S GERMAN A War-Ukr[sic]; A St.P S A Mos; F Bar, F Nwy, F Nrg, & F Lon hold.

FRANCE (Lischett): A Ven-Tri; F Adr S A Ven-Tri; A Tyr S GERMAN A Gal-Vie[sic]; F Apu & F Nap S F Ion; A Pie S A Tyr; A Rom-Gre; F Tyr & F Ion C A Rom-Gre; A Par holds.

GERMANY (Quirk): A Sil S A War; F Bal S F Bot; F Bot S F Bal; A Boh-Vie; A Gal S A Boh-Vie; A Mun-Boh; A War S A Gal.

ITALY (Verheiden): F Bul(s.c.) S F Alb-Gre; A Bud S RUSSIAN A Vie; A Tri-Alb; F Alb-Gre.

RUSSIA (Neal): No moves received. A Vie, A Rum; A Ukr, A Sev, F Eas, A Ser, & F Aeg hold.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1912" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2006.

Michael Neal writes that his personal situation makes it impossible to meet game deadlines; I would suspect that this has something to do with his exile, as created by Hurricane Katrina. Moreover, Graustark is not reaching him regularly. The replacement player for Russia is Harley Jordan, whose address is on p. 10.

2004C

"Fall 1907"

DEUTSCHLAND ÜBER ALLIES

FRANCE (Wiedemeyer): A Lon & A Bur hold; A Tus-Ven; A Pie S A Tus-Ven; F Lyo-Tyr; F Tun S F Lyo-Tyr; F Wes S F Tun.

GERMANY (Mathias): A Yor-Lon; A Sil-War; A Mos S A Sil-War; A Pru S A Sil-War; A Liv S A Mos; F Mid-Bre; A Tyr-Vie; A Boh S A Tyr-Vie; A Mun-Sil; A Ruh-Bel.

ITALY (Mooney): A Vie S TURKISH A Rum-Gal; F Rom-Tus; A Ven S F Rom-Tus; A Bud S A Vie; F Tyr-Tun; F Ion S F Tyr-Tun; A Tri S A Ven.

RUSSIA (Biehl): A War-Mos.

TURKEY (Bruce): A Rum-Gal; A Ser-Rum; A Ukr & A Sev S RUSSIAN A War-Mos; F Eas-Aeg; F Bla hold; F Gre-Alb.

Underlined moves are not possible. The French A Tus is dislodged and annihilated. France retreats F Tun-NAf and Germany retreats A Mos-St.P. It should be observed that the Italian A Ven was not dislodged by the supported French attack A Tus-Ven, since it was supported by the Italian A Tri. Since the A Ven was attacked from Tuscany, the support it delivered for an Italian attack into Tuscany remains valid. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

FRANCE: Lon, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (5)

GERMANY: Bel, Ber, Bre, Den, Edi, Hol, Kie, Liv, Mun, Nwy, St.P, Swe, War. (13)

ITALY: Bud, Gre, Nap, Rom, Tri, Tun, Ven, Vie. (8)

RUSSIA: Mos. (1)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy. (7)

Germany may build three new units, and Italy may build one. France must remove one unit. The deadline for these "Winter 1907" orders is NOON, FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2006.

BERLIN: Russian Front: It has been reported that a note was found in an abandoned bunker, reading "Dimitri and Sergei were here." Similar reports have also been coming in, from many other abandoned posts, with the names Dimitri and Sergei scrawled in chalk or scratched into walls or carved into wooden railings. Now the question weighing in

all our minds is: "Who are Dimitri and Sergei, and where are they now?"

Heard echoing from somewhere in the Black Forest: UUURRRRRRPPPP!

ANAKHIT, SKANDALUTZ (URRP): When asked about the mysterious "Dimitri and Sergei", this matriarchy's Ministress of Refugees consulted her records and replied: "We presently have 34 Dimitris and 58 Sergeis, and also 39 Pierres, 29 Reginalds, 89 Giuseppes, 67 Karl-Heinzes, 24 Arslans, 31 Istvans, and 118 Ottos. Which ones do you mean?"

2006A

"Winter 1901"

ENGLAND (Wiedemeyer): Builds F Liv.	AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Williams): Builds F Tri, A Bud.
FRANCE (Schmit): No builds received.	RUSSIA (Biehl): Builds F St.P(n.c.) & A Sev.
GERMANY (Jordan): Builds A Kie.	TURKEY (Quirk): Builds F Smy.
ITALY (Burgess): Builds F Nap.	

The deadline for "Spring 1902" moves is NOON, FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2006. Stand-by "Spring 1902 orders should be sent in by Hank Alme, whose address is on p. 10.

WARSAW (Dec. 1, 1901): After back to back nil nil draws Manager Kep Pressinsking remarked, "Our club, the All Slavic Stars, looks forward to more promising results versus the HUFC in our next match. We are looking for Footballers in Sevastopol to add to the national side."

ST. PETERSBURG (Dec. 31, 1901): Czar Ivan V wrote a note to the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, "I consider and reconsider who my allies are and who ought to be allied. Time will tell whether I considered correctly."

VIENNA TIMES: The beleaguered Hapsburg United Football Club (affectionately dubbed "Arsenal East" by fans) stunned the European League today with surprising upsets in back-to-back matches against the much stronger Russian Army and the heavily favored Italian Army team "Azzurri". The first match found Arsenal East fight the Russians to a 0-0 draw after two OT periods. In the end, the game was decided on penalty kicks, with Arsenal East winning the shoot-out, 5-2. No less stunning was Hapsburg United's ability to bounce back immediately thereafter to take on the vaunted Azzurri, dressed in their "invader green" team colors. Things looked grim for Arsenal East when the Italian team went up 2 to 0 in the 43rd and 57th minutes. Fortunately, a skilled Hapsburg defense eventually irritated Italian soccer captain Jimedine Boobane ("Ji-bou" to his loyal following) who lost his composure in the 73rd minute and viciously head-butted Arsenal East's star striker, Milan Kundera, who fell to the ground writhing in fake-but-effective agony. Moments later Ji-Bou was red-carded and the Italian army was forced to play the final 17 minutes down one man. Arsenal East immediately seized the opportunity, blazing away with two quick strikes to the back of the net (79th, 83rd minutes). Reports of guns and stilettos being brandished by the Hapsburg Club during the rough match remain unconfirmed. The game ended in a 2 to 2 tie, much to the delight of team captain Dino Zoff. Though pleased with their recent successes, Hapsburg United's Zoff says the team faces tougher times ahead with the addition of the Turkish army (Sublime Porte United) in its schedule.

AUSTRIA to EUROPE: All that rot aside, I was delighted to watch my beloved Italian team win its fourth World Cup in 2006. (Almost makes up for being robbed by Brazil in '96.) Please everyone, join me in the singing of the Italian national anthem... "Fratelli Italia! Italia s'adesta!" And so it goes.

THE DIPLOMATIC CODE: Simon Dancer continued hurrying swiftly through the dank zine-packed smelly catacombs buried under the streets and builds of modern Brooklyn. Fear was still gnawing at his gut. Gradually, however, he realized that the author had been too busy watching the World Cup this month and so had given no thought whatsoever to Simon's fictional plight. He stopped abruptly, nearly dropping the guttering torch.

"I hope you do better next month, you stupid hack."

AUSTRIA to ENGLAND: You're giving up an awful lot of kippers and sardines by letting Norway go to the pre-Bolshevik. Hope you know what you're doing, Wiede-man!

VIENNA to ROME: I built the fleet as promised. Can we be friends now? If not, the R/Y will dig the grave deep enough for the two of us because you'll be coming in right after me.

AUSTRIA to WEST: Look, I've been playing this game steadily since 1981. (Okay,

(continued on p. 12)

PATRIOTISM - LI

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the unprincipled cause of war.

PATRIOTISM is the claim by the Rev. Pat Robertson, who is already on record demanding the assassination of the President of Venezuela, that Islam is not a "faith of peace", and has world domination as its goal. (And Christianity doesn't?) (*Boston Globe*, 14 March 2006)

PATRIOTISM is using the federal "material witness law" to "hold people who the government fears will commit terrorist acts in the future but whom it lacks probable cause to charge with a crime." (*New York Times*, 22 March 2006) This is usually called "preventive detention". It is not a part of the American legal system.

PATRIOTISM is forbidding lawyers who represent material witnesses from talking about their clients. (*Ibid.*)

PATRIOTISM is more than a dozen death threats received by the family of a Colorado teacher who compared the "State of the Union" speech of Bush the Son to speeches by Adolf Hitler. (*metro*, 9 March 2006)

PATRIOTISM is the belief that Americans can avenge attacks by Muslim terrorists if they attack Sikhs or Hindus.

PATRIOTISM is urging that American "peace-keeping" troops should be removed from Iraq and Afghanistan, where there is no peace to keep, and instead shoved into the hind end of Africa, where the same condition prevails.

PATRIOTISM is the FBI looking at reporters' phone records to find out which government officials they have been interviewing. (Bob Keeler, *Newsday*, 19 May 2006)

PATRIOTISM is a federal judge dismissing a lawsuit by Khaled el-Masri, a German citizen sent to Afghanistan to be tortured, because such a suit might reveal "state secrets". (*New York Times*, 19 May 2006)

PATRIOTISM is conservative David Horowitz's pro-war pamphlet "Campus Support for Terrorism", whose cover illustration shows four critics of the Bush Regime's Middle Eastern policy. (*New York Times*, 15 May 2006)

PATRIOTISM is the belief that the new "prime minister" of Iraq is anything more than a GS-26½ in the U. S. Department of State.

PATRIOTISM is the attempt to deport New York City Hall clerk Martine Kalaw, 25, born in Zambia and brought to the U. S. at the age of 4 on a Congolese passport by her mother. Kalaw is not presently regarded as a citizen by any country. (*metro*, 16 May 2006)

PATRIOTISM is the attempt of the Bush Regime to indict for espionage the reporters who won Pulitzer Prizes for exposing warrantless spying on Americans by the National Security Agency. (Frank Rich, *New York Times*, 14 May 2006)

PATRIOTISM is the completely false report, in several U. S. and Canadian newspapers, that the government of Iran requires non-Muslims to wear colored patches on their clothing to indicate their religion. (*New York Post*, 20 May 2006) The purpose of this story is to arouse high moral indignation against Iran. "True" and "false" are relatively minor matters.

PATRIOTISM is the insistence by *New York Post* columnist Amir Taheri that there nevertheless actually is a requirement of religious labels on the clothing of Iranians.

PATRIOTISM is the \$2,300,000,000,000 (that's "trillion" with a "t") that the Pentagon had already "lost track of" at the beginning of Donald Rumsfeld's tenure as Secretary of "Defense". (Business Leaders for Sensible Priorities, *New York Times*, 21 May 2006)

PATRIOTISM is the attempt, by the U. S. Army's "trademark lawyers", to force West Point Graduates Against the War to drop the words "West Point" from their name. (*New York Times*, 21 May 2006)

PATRIOTISM is the bullet fired into the air in the traditional Muddle Eastern fashion by Danny Carpio, a U. S. soldier home on leave in New York City. He killed Selina Akther, a Bangladeshi immigrant who leaves a husband and two small children.

PATRIOTISM is the demand by Representative Thomas Tancredo (R-CO), a possible Republican presidential candidate for 2008, that the United States should bomb Mecca.

PATRIOTISM is the principal cause of war.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

Today's Terrorism Alert Color Code is Steven Green, which by a strange coincidence is also the name of the American soldier who raped a teen-age girl in Iraq, and then killed her and her entire family.

*

Graustark is the Very First bulletin for the postal play of Diplomacy. It is published every fourth Saturday by John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226-5302. Diplomacy is a board game of negotiation and conflict for the period of World War I. It was designed by Allan B. Calhamer and is now published by Hasbro. Another new postal Diplomacy game is now being organized in Graustark, at a game fee of \$35. (For Canadian and Mexican addresses the game fee is \$50; and for other foreign addresses it is \$100, or 80 euros in cash.) This game fee includes a subscription to Graustark for as long as the game lasts, whether or not you are eliminated. With your game fee send in a list of the countries you'd like to play, in your order of preference, and I'll try to put you as close to the top of that list as I can. If you do not already have the postal rules for Diplomacy, which were last published in Graustark #749, let me know when you send in your game fee, and I'll send you a copy.

This is

O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves

Graustark subscriptions for non-players are 10 issues for \$15 for U. S. addresses, and \$40 or 35 euros for others. Back issues as available are 10 issues for \$5 for U. S. addresses. To foreign addresses, back issues have the same price as for foreign subscriptions. Players who phone in their moves should call me at 718-693-1579. An answering machine is attached to this phone.

I want to again remind players that the U. S. Postal "Service" is not capable of reliably getting mail here in less than a week. Please take this into account in sending in your moves. If, a few times, your moves have arrived here by mail in less than a week, do not assume that this will always be the case.

*

I certainly owe letters to several Graustark readers, as well as to others. This is mainly because, for the past few months, neither my wife nor I have been in the best of health. Some Graustark issues have also been late for these reasons. Her situation is rather more difficult, because an apparent thyroid problem has been difficult to diagnose and more widespread in its effects. I am trying to get caught up, and hope to manage it in a few weeks.

*

The "Middle Eastern Crisis" seems to be getting worse, but to me the biggest question is why Americans even have to care about it, since as you may have noticed America is not located in the Middle East. Besides, there is always a crisis in the Middle East; check your bible for details. Moreover, there are people in Japan who can tell the Arabs and Chechens what happens when you make suicide attacks against nuclear powers. Nor can I take seriously the allegations about Iranian nuclear weapons. (Remember the allegations about Iraqi nuclear weapons?) I think these allegations exist because no one would support a war against Iran the Oil Producer, but might be persuaded to support a war against Iran the "Potential Nuclear Power". But if the U. S. really wants its new policy of pre-emptive strikes to be accepted, it ought to include an apology to the emperor, government, and people of Japan for executing their beloved General Tojo for doing the same thing at Pearl Harbor.

Besides, Iran probably wants nothing to do with nuclear power, since uranium and plutonium are named after the heathen gods Uranus and Pluto, and as good Muslims they want no part of such Pagan idols. And their delivery system leaves much to be desired. As I understand it, they plan to jam a nuclear rocket backwards up a camel, face it away from the intended target, and then feed it beans until the missile is launched.

*

Graustark readers who are interested in postal games which don't run here, are invited to write to the publishers of 'zines with which I trade, and ask what game openings they have. For their addresses, see all the readers indicated by "(T)" for "trade" in the Graustark Directory on pp. 10-11. Several of these publishers run a wide variety of postal games.

*

For an "off year", 2006 is producing a number of significant political races. On 1 August the people of Kansas will once more try to save their state's reputation by voting out of office a majority on the state's board of education, which is trying to teach biology out of Genesis. Half of the ten-member board was up for election, including four of the six members who tried to re-define science to include creationism. If any two of them are replaced by people who accept evolution, state policy on evolution will be reversed for the fourth time in seven years. The present Kansas policy actually decrees a "redefinition of science itself, so that it would not be explicitly limited to natural explanations."

One week later, the Democrats of Connecticut will have a chance to eject the notoriously pro-war Senator Joseph Lieberman and replace him with Ned Lamont, a nominee who believes that peace is preferable to war. Lieberman is trailing badly in the polls.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about New York's Senator Killery Clinton, a War Democrat who is up for renomination on 12 September. Name recognition and an enormous heap of campaign money will probably get the nomination for her, although a valiant effort is being undertaken by her anti-war challenger, Jonathan Tasini. If Tasini is not nominated by the Democrats, I will probably vote for the Green Party's candidate in the general election. Although I decidedly do not support their anti-technological message, it seems that our only opportunity to vote for anti-war candidates is on the Green ticket.

In New York, this is certain to be a Democratic year. Attorney-General Eliot Spitzer has no serious challengers in either the Democratic primary or the general election for Governor. A mean-spirited columnist for a local newspaper claims that Spitzer is the illegitimate son of Ralph Nader, but nobody is taking this seriously.

*

The first entries for a new Graustark postal Diplomacy game are beginning to come in, but entrants are warned that they may have to wait several months for the game to begin.

*

I want to thank Rick Loomis of the gaming firm Flying Buffalo Inc. for sending me his experiences and impressions at Origins 2006:

"I needed one hotel room more than I had planned, and was able to get a room two weeks before the show at a hotel that was a couple miles away but had a free shuttle.

"Attendance was down a little bit (I think 13,000 instead of the 15,000 they had last year) which wasn't surprising given gas prices. But I had better attendance at my tournaments and game demos. I think I showed more people how to play Nuclear War than I have in a long time. Sales at my booth were actually about the same as last year. I had really good sales on Sunday, which is unusual.

"I heard NO ONE complain about problems with registrations or badges or for that matter anything except the typical convention food. I thought it was a very good Origins. Many people remarked about the really cool promotion that Mayfair Games did (you could win a free \$350 Settlers game)."

And the moral of the story is that I should send in my room reservation(s) for Origins 2007 at least four months before the convention.

*

Just before ending the publication of his gaming 'zine *Who Do You Trust?*, Timothy Haffey Sr. attacked me and my career in #7, his penultimate issue. As it happens, I had just finished re-reading some germane comments in Wendy Northcutt's *The Darwin Awards* #3. In it she introduced the concept of a "meme" in the following words:

"A meme is a unit of cultural information. While most social memes work in a protective, functional manner, some are dysfunctional. One example is...the notion that hard work is more important than education.

(continued on p. 11)

DUNGEONS & CHRISTIANS - CXC

"As the (atheist) physicist Steven Weinberg has famously put it...good people tend to do good, evil people tend to do evil, but for a good person to do evil - 'that takes religion.'" - Cornelia Dean, *New York Times*, 25 July 2006

"Dungeons & Christians" has been running in my gaming 'zines since 1984, when it began by reporting John Sapienza's demolition of Pat Pulling's campaign against Dungeons & Dragons (D&D). It has since chronicled the continuing campaign by Christian fanatics to ban D&D, other RPGs, live-action RPGs (LARPs), and collectible card games including Magic: The Gathering, Vampire: The Masquerade, Werewolf: The Apocalypse, and others.

Important sources of information about game-bashers are the Game Manufacturers Association (GAMA) and the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games (CAR-PGA), "an international network of researchers into all aspects of role-playing games". This column relies heavily on reports from both of these organizations. CAR-PGA Newsletter is published monthly by Paul Cardwell Jr., 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418 at \$12.00 a year for domestic, and \$13.50 a year for foreign, addresses. It keeps us posted on attacks on D&D and other RPGs, and provides us with arguments and strategies to be used against attempts to censor or ban games. It also lists upcoming gaming conventions.

Aside from items cited in CAR-PGA Newsletter, some of which date from past years, there seem to be very few attacks on D&D currently. Sometimes a program on the cable channel A&E, about a murder, will mention D&D accusations, but does not seem to take them particularly seriously. A recent A&E program took up the 1997 case of six Kentucky teen-agers who dressed up as so-called "Goths" in high school, and were consequently bullied by other students. There was a one-sentence mention that they played D&D, but this was not connected by A&E to the fact that, after they dropped out of school, stole a car, and headed for New Orleans, they murdered a man who tried to preach Jehovah's Witnesses doctrine to them, and also killed his wife and daughter. They were all arrested, tried, and found guilty, but if D&D came up at the trial, A&E did not consider it worthy of mention. Besides, there is no point to killing missionaries. Let them go on making themselves look like fools.

There was a misprint in my review of an A&E account of the January 1998 murder of Stephanie Crowe, in the last issue. The murderer's name was Richard Tuite. Stephanie's older brother Michael and two of his friends had been arrested for the murder, solely because they played D&D, and a confession was force-fed to Michael by the police. Naturally, the police case fell apart in court, and the state attorney general's office took over the case and successfully prosecuted Tuite.

★

The last issue of Graustark had two items about, apparently, two different men named Dan Brown. It was only after printing it that I made the connection. Apparently the Christian opposition to Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code* has reached the point where Brown is now on the famous "No-Fly List" as a suspected terrorist! This can only support my contention that the present American conquest and annexation of Iraq is actually a religious war, Christians against Muslims, conceivably in pursuit of Ann Coulter's notorious proposal that the people of Iraq should be forcibly converted to Christianity.

This list, officially called the "Terror Watch List", contains the names of people who are apparently so dangerous that they must be kept out of the country, or off aircraft, but not so dangerous that they need to be arrested. Several government agencies, which have not been publicly identified, may put names on this list, but only the agency that added a name may remove it. And no one may find out whether his or her name is on the list, or why.

Furthermore, "Travelers whose names are similar to those on the watch list can be questioned and held for hours before being admitted into the country, according to a report released yesterday by Homeland Security Inspector General Richard L. Skinner." (*Newsday*, 25 July 2006) Even Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) has been kept off flights because his name is on the No-Fly List, although this may merely be a judgment, by our Republican-administration, that Senator Kennedy is a danger to America. And a four-

year-old boy named Edward Allen has also been kept off a plane because his name is on this list. (Graustark #772)

The other Dan Brown mentioned in Graustark #776 is a staff sergeant who was returning from Iraq when he was forbidden to board a domestic flight from Los Angeles to Minneapolis. Like little Edward Allen, he has to bear the burden of having the same name as a man deemed to be a potential terrorist - in his case, the author of a book described as blasphemous by many Christians.

So, if you have a common name, you run the risk of being suspected as a person on the No-Fly List. If your name is Joe Smith, I suggest that you take the trouble of getting identification, including a passport, in the name of (for example) Fortunato Blennerhasset.

*

Remember when, just a few months ago, everyone was either enthusiastic or apprehensive about the message contained in Mel Gibson's film *The Passion of the Christ*? Some thought it might be considered anti-Jewish.

Well, now we know what Gibson intended with this film. When he was arrested for drunken driving in Los Angeles on 28 July, he threatened the cop, and snarled at him, "The Jews are responsible for all the wars in the world. Are you a Jew?" (Newsday, 31 July 2006)

As it turned out, the arresting officer is Jewish. Presumably Gibson will now get help from the Betty Ford Clinic for alcoholism, and also from the Henry Ford Clinic for anti-Semitism.

PLEASE STAND BY

I am willing to take over games that have been abandoned by their gamesmasters. So if you are a postal gamesmaster who is no longer able to publish, or if you are a player in a postal game of regular Diplomacy that has gone for two or three months without a move being published, please get in touch with me and with the Orphan Games Director, Michael Lowrey. (See p. 11 for his address.) If the game is to continue in Graustark, I would need the addresses of all active players, the current position, and a list of who owns which supply centers. If subscription money can be passed along to me, fine. Otherwise I will ask players to join a new game in Graustark, or to subscribe to Graustark if they do not already do so. Players who resign or drop out can be replaced by Graustark stand-by players.

It is best if this is done quickly, should it be necessary. If a game is abandoned for too long, some players may lose interest, and may not continue to play when it resumes under another gamesmaster.

Stand-by players are always needed for postal Diplomacy games in Graustark. If you volunteer as a stand-by, you may be called upon whenever a current player misses a move. If you send in moves for that country for the next turn, and the present player does not, you will take over play of that position. No game fee will be asked, though you should keep your subscription current, or enroll in a new Graustark game. No stand-by will be called upon in a game in which he or she has already played.

Stand-by volunteers who are willing to take on additional games of postal Diplomacy are listed below. A stand-by player who is already playing in a Graustark game is indicated by "*". A player called on as a stand-by in this issue is indicated by "#". If you wish your name added to or removed from this list, please let me know. These data are accurate to the date of 26 July 2006.

Hank Alme#
John R. Biehl

Harley Jordan*
Michael Quirk*

Eric Verheiden*
Fred Wiedemeyer*

WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

The subscriptions of the following readers expire with the indicated issue of Graustark. This information is valid to the date of 26 July 2006. See p. 6 for information about extending your subscription or joining a new game.

779 - Jim Dapkus
780 - Mike Fisher

780 - Michael Neal
787 - Eric Verheiden

797 - W. Andrew York
799 - Brenton Verploeg

THE GRAUSTARK DIRECTORY

Players in a current postal Diplomacy games are indicated by its Boardman Number, with the initial of the country being played, and with "S" indicating an active stand-by player. (E. g., "2006A-R" or "2002D-FS".) Paying subscribers will be indicated by the number of the issue with which the subscription expires. Other designations are:

T: trade copy

N: entrant in the next Graustark postal Diplomacy game

C: complimentary copy for a gamer

R: complimentary copy for a non-gamer interested in the mystery novel reviews

U: uncomplimentary copy

This directory is accurate to the date of 29 July 2006. Please let me know of any corrections or additions that need to be made, particularly if you want your nine-digit ZIP code, phone number, fax number, or e-mail address added to your listing. This is particularly important for electronic addresses, which seem to change more frequently than do postal addresses.

If you are already a Graustark subscriber when you decide to send in a game fee, then when the game begins, the number of issues you had coming when you joined will be added to your subscription once the game ends. After your name in the Directory will appear some such notation as "2004C-T+6".

Stephen Agar (T), 4 Cedar Gardens, Brighton BN1 6YD, ENGLAND; 01273-562430;

<stephen@stephenagar.com>

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THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 7)

This idea is adequate for a community that needs more elbow grease than diplomas, but in our current society, rich in information and full of labor-saving devices, social groups who discount the importance of education are becoming increasingly marginalized."

In recent years I have noticed many such attacks on higher education, and on those who like myself are engaged in it. (Like Haffey, a Navy veteran, I am now retired and living on a government pension - in my case, the government of the state of New York.) These attacks seem to come mainly from Ann Coulter clones who have noticed that journalists and college faculty members are disproportionately convinced that peace is preferable to war, and that civil liberties are good things to have. They have concocted an elaborate conspiracy theory which claims that only Pacifists are allowed to enter these professions. If they did not do this, they would be forced to admit to themselves that most people who are better educated, better informed, and probably more intelligent than themselves are opposed to war, and to a number of other conservative programs.

Besides, those of us who supposedly live in "Ivory towers" are a necessity to the sort of society that veterans like Haffey imagine themselves to have defended. We train

scientists, engineers, physicians, attorneys, and other people without which our society could not function. We could manage as a society if every American soldier and "contractor" were withdrawn from Afghanistan and Iraq, but we could not manage if the universities were shut down. Even rigorously purging faculties to eliminate people with views like mine would not work. That was tried during the 1930s, and again during the 1950s, and both times it failed utterly. I leave conservatives to contemplate their own helplessness to do anything about this.

Unlike Haffey's, my employment history does *not* include the armed forces. I don't kill people. As I have frequently observed in my publications, war is a sort of applied evolution. Those who can stay out of it will therefore be able to propagate their kind. And, if a military draft resumes, I can march my grandchildren across the Canadian border singing "I Will Survive".

As he wrote in *Who Do You Trust?* #8, Haffey has been forced by circumstances to end publication of his postal Diplomacy 'zine. Although it may not have been his intent, this action raises the intellectual tone of the hobby.

2006A (continued from p. 4)

that makes me scarcely more than 'wet-behind-the-ears' in John's eyes, but the rest of you ought to be impressed. Believe me when I tell you that the R/T is alive and well. Biehl has written me only to tell me fables, fairy-tales and bedtime stories about the Big Bad A/I Wolf, and won't bother to answer real requests for help. Quirk hasn't written at all, but he at least can say the same of me and neither of us has lied to the other. I'll hold them back for a while with a spectacular and spirited defense (watch as Arsenal East takes on all comers!), but I encourage you to remain mindful of the lurker menace ... R/T, thy name is Leviathan.

HAPSBURG UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB to LEVIATHAN: Do your worst ...



GRAUSTARK #777

John Boardman
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BROOKLYN NY 112

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- () - I owe you a letter.
See p. 6 for the reason.
- () - You missed a move in _____.
See p. ____.
- () - You are up for a stand-by position in _____. See p. ____.
- () - Sample copy.
- (✓) - You may be interested in an item on p. 7.

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